

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 OPR-02 SAM-01 OC-05

CCO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 A-01 AID-05

PC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /092 W
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O R 131600Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3791

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: FIGHTING CONTINUES IN LUANDA: FNLA REGAINS SOME GROUND

1. AT NOON ON SUNDAY, JULY 13, BARELY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER I FOUND MPLA IN CONTROL OF THE STREETS AROUND THE FNLA HEADQUARTERS ON AVENIDA BRAZIL, I RETURNED TO THE AREA TO FIND FNLA OUT IN FORCE ALONG THE ENTIRE AVENUE. THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING ITSELF HAD BEEN BADLY BLASTED. ONE FNLA SOLDIER LAY DEAD ON THE SIDEWALK AND THE FNLA TROOPS TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY. NO SHOOTING WAS GOING ON WHILE I WAS THERE, BUT AS MPLA HEADQUARTERS IS ONLY A FEW STREETS REMOVED, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE MORE CLASHES, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS BETWEEN THE OPPOSING FORCES.

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2. FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE GHETTOS AND IN VIANA, AN INDUSTRIAL

TOWN EAST OF LUANDA. THE HEAVY WEAPONS BEING USED HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. I STOPPED BY THE MORGUE EARLY ON JULY 13. BODIES WERE STREWN IN THE CHAPEL, MANY OF THEM MUTILATED BY HIGH EXPLOSIVES. LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FROM OUTLYING AREAS ARE COMING INTO THE CITY WITH THEIR BELONGINGS. THE NORMALLY HEAVY SUNDAY TRAFFIC IS MUCH REDUCED, GAS STATIONS ARE CLOSED AND BLACKS AND WHITES ARE STANDING IN CLUSTERS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS WATCHING AND WAITING. FNLA AND MPLA TROOPS ARE HONEYCOMBED THROUGH MANY NEIGHBORHOODS AND IN SOME CASES HAVE APPROPRIATED PRIVATE DWELLINGS AS COMMAND POSTS.

3. EVEN THOUGH FNLA HAS REGAINED THE TERRITORY AROUND ITS HEAD-QUARTERS THE ODDS ARE AGAINST IT BOTH BECAUSE IT IS OPERATING IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST SUPERIOR FORCES AND BECAUSE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE RESUPPLY OF AMMUNITION. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION TOGETHER; THE MPLA DOES NOT WANT TO SIT AT THE TABLE WITH FNLA UNTIL IT HAS FINISHED THE JOB OF EXPELLING FNLA FROM THE CITY. FOR THAT MATTER, FNLA HAS SHOWN UP AT ONLY ONE OF THE MEETINGS CALLED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

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